



K.J. SARASA

AKADEMI AWARD: BHARATANATYAM

Born in 1937 in Karaikal, Pondicherry, Shrimati K. J. Sarasa hails from a family whose ancestors were court musicians for the Tanjore kings. A sister of the renowned *nattuvanar* Dandayudhapani Pillai, Shrimati Sarasa represents a heritage nurtured over centuries by her family. She was groomed for over 15 years by Guru Vazhuvoor Ramaiah Pillai in the art of Bharatanatyam, and is a leading representative of the Vazhuvoor *bani*. She is among the earliest women *nattuvanars*. She has also received lessons in vocal music from Shri Ramanathapuram Krishnan and Shri Vakkiyur Gurumurthy.

Since 1960, when she founded her school Sarasalaya at Madras, Shrimati Sarasa has trained a large number of students. She has also choreographed many dance-dramas. Recently, she has been appointed Honorary Director of the Tamil Nadu Government Music Training Centre.

Shrimati Sarasa received the title Kalaimamani from the Tamil Eyal Isai Nataka Manram in 1975.

Shrimati K.J. Sarasa receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for her contribution to Bharatanatyam.

Akademi Awards 1992

